

09/752,564

U.S. Appln. Serial No.: 09/752,564
Attorney Docket No.: 032405 WN 061

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 with the following:

According to a rear gate opening and closing mechanism disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Toku-Kai-Hei 5-280242 and also shown in Fig. 43 ¹², the rear gate 112 has a hinge arm 113 at the upper end thereof and the hinge arm 113 is pivotally supported by a vehicle body 110. The hinge arm 113 has a curved section 114 formed in such a manner as extending forwardly from a pivoting point P of the hinge arm 113, making a U-turn and then extending backwardly. The curved section 114 communicates with a rear gate fitting section 115 to which the rear gate 112 is secured. A rod 116 is pivotally connected at a boss section 117 provided at the rear end thereof with a slightly lower part of the curved section 114 than the pivoting point P. A front end of the rod 116 is slidably fitted to a supporting hole 118 and a coil spring 119 is interposed between a rear spacer 120 and the boss section 117.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19 with the following:

The opening and closing apparatus 30 has the drive unit 31 and a gas stay apparatus 50 for assisting the operation of the drive unit 31. As shown in Figs 2 and 4, the drive unit 31 is provided with a mounting base 32 having a base plate 32A with a slot 32a longitudinally ~~spaced~~ ^{spaced} a rear flange 32b and a side flange 32c for reinforcing the base plate 32A.